

Appln No. 09/976,511

Amdt date October 10, 2003

Reply to Office action of July 10, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 5-7, 12, 13, 17, 18, and 22 are allowed. Claims 2-4, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 23-25 are objected to. Claims 1, 8-11, 16, and 21 stand rejected. The Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter and his attention to this application.

The Applicants have canceled rejected claims 1, 8-11, 16, and 21.

Objected to claim 2 has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim, namely currently canceled claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

With regard to objected to claims 3 and 4, each of these claims are dependent from currently amended independent claim 2 and include additional limitations therein. Accordingly, claim 3 and 4 are also allowable for the same reasons as claim 2 as well as for the additional limitations recited.

With regard to objected to claims 14 and 15, each has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim, namely currently canceled claim 11. The Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended claims 14 and 15 are now in condition for allowance.

With regard to objected to claims 19 and 20, each has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim, namely currently canceled claim 16. The

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Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended claims 19 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

With regard to objected to claims 23-25, each of these claims have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim, namely currently canceled claim 21. The Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended claims 23-25 are now in condition for allowance.

As the currently amended independent claims and their dependent claims are in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

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